Demand of rice by Tamil Nadu

455. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand made by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Central Government for supply of rice to meet the drought situation;

(b) the total allocation made by the Centre to meet the situation; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide adequate stocks of rice to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu demanded 9.00 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for the current drought against which a quantity of 4.50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been allocated.

Distribution of food items Through Fair Price Shops

456. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains and other essential commodities now being distributed through Fair Price Shops;

(b) the prices of these commodities in the Fair Price Shops and also in the open market as on the 30th June, 2003; and

(c) the types of commodities and the quantity per head as are now being distributed to the BPL families alongwith the per kg. rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Central Government presently makes available to the States wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption through the FPSs such as cloth, exercise books, pulses, salt, tea etc.